

AN
EPISTLE
OF
LOVE
AND
Tender Good Will

To the Called of God, that have in any measure
answered their Call.

With an *Exhortation* to all, to be faithful
to it, that they may get an assurance of that
they are called to, before it be too late, and there be
no more Time.

Also, a *Caution*, with a *Warning*, to all, not to
look back into *Egypt* again, lest they loose their Ex-
pectation, and their latter End be worse than their
Beginning.

*By one who desireth the Safety of all, and that none may be
Lost.*

John Songhurst.

*Be thou faithful unto Death, and thou shalt have a Crown of
Life, which will be thy Joy and Happyness, when all things
here below will have an End.*

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*An Epistle of Love and tender Good Will
to the Called of God, that have in any
measure answered their Call, &c.*

Dear Friends;

THE Love of God hath been large unto us, in causing the day to break forth, that many have desired to see, and the Day-star to arise with its great and glorious Brightness, that Morning Glory, which hath caused many to rejoyce in the Light of it, and the breaking of it forth was to all that beheld it, aimeable and very precious; to all that delighted in it, it being a Morning without Clouds, to their Souls that had been in Darkness, and under a Cloud of Error, wandring about in the dark Night of Ignorance, as Sheep without a Shepherd, seeking Rest, and finding none, and spending our Money for that which was not Bread, and our Labour for that which satisfied not our Immortal Souls; And in this State and Condition many run to the end of their own Wits, and then were ready to conclude, *there was no better state to be attained to*, and were almost out of hopes, being frustrated in our Expectations, as concerning Satisfaction to our Immortal Souls.

And *Friends*, had not the Lord took pity on us in that day, many had been lost forever; but the Lord, who hath caused Light to shine out of Darkness (may we say, as they did in Ages past) hath shined in our Hearts, to give

us the *Light of the Knowledge of the Glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ*; and this is as *a Light to our Feet, and as a Lanthorn to our Paths*, as it was in days past, so it is now, and will never leave us in Darknes more, as we take heed to it, but will be a Righteous Guide to us at all times; and all former labour and seeking was in vain, because we were seeking in our own wills, and according to our own Inventions, which Inventions never found out the Way of Life; but blessed be the Lord, the Light now shineth, and the way of Life is clearly seen, and that which is hid from the Wisdom of this World, is found with great Joy to many Hearts, because Times of Refreshment are come from the presence of the Almighty; and the Lord is now planting many pleasant Plants in the Paradise of Pleasures, or that Garding which he takes a delight in; And the Sun of Righteousness now shineth amongst them that were in Darknes, and in times past did not know him; and the in-shining of this glorious Light, causeth the Plants which are of the Right Seed, to grow by the Water courses, and to bud and blossom as a Rose; and such are Beautiful in the sight of the Lord, and one to another; being seasoned with Grace, they are sweet and lovely to behold, and the Lord in this Condition takes delight to be with us.

These things being considered, what the Lord hath done for us, we have cause to bless and praise his Name forever, and to have him in our remembrance for evermore.

Dear Friends, can we forget the Lords Love to our Souls? or his former kindness, when he first appeared to us, and overtook us in the Wilderness of great Distress, in that time when we were running in our own Wills
headlong

headlong to Destruction, as well as others, and by his out-
 stretched Arm did he gather us into his heavenly way, out
 of the many Ways and Inventions which were set up in
 the fallen State by the Will of man, and hath brought us
 into that place where he feeds his Flock, and causes them
 to rest at Noon, that are waiting upon him; and this are
 they brought to, that follow the Foot-steps of the flocks
 of his Companions, and many have sate down there under
 his Shadow with great delight; And as we live here, his
 Fruit to us hath a pleasant taste, and many a hungry Soul
 there-with is come to be satisfied, for nothing else would
 ever satisfie the Immortal Soul short of that Bread which
 comes down from Heaven, of which they that eat, and
 know it their daily Bread, never hunger more, but it
 will be in them a Satisfaction, springing up unto Everlast-
 ing Life.

O! sure, Friends, as we live in a fresh remembrance
 of these things, of the Lords great Love to our Souls,
 length of Time, nor distance of Place, Poverty nor Riches,
 Things present, nor Things to come, nor any other Thing
 or Creature whatsoever, can ever be able to cause a for-
 getfulness to overtake us, or to separate us from that
 Love which we have learned in Christ Jesus. This is
 that Love wherewith he loved us in the beginning,
 when we our selves were Enemies unto him, and fol-
 lowed us with his Righteous Judgments and in them all,
 did remember us with Mercy, when he might have
 justly cut us off, according to our deserts, but he
 bore long with many of us, and passed by our Transgres-
 sions, and since hath stood by us to this day, otherwise
 we had been destroyed and lost forever; and he hath
 brought many into his Banqueting-house, where the
 Fe-st

Feast of fat Things is known, the Angel of his Presence attending us, which is cause of Joy and Rejoycing in and amongst them that are come and coming to this state and condition.

This is our Beloved, O *Friends!* let none forget or forsake him, but let us keep in fellowship with him, and dwell in a living Remembrance of what he hath done for us, that we may never forget the Spring time of Refreshment, wherein the Voice of the Turtle was and is heard in our Land! and the Singing of Birds is come, and the sweet Flowers in Gods Garden, in the Beauty of *Molleness* are Springing, the Son of Righteousness shining upon them, which causeth many to grow, and to be brought into that Image of God again, which was lost by reason of Sin and Transgression; upon these the former and latter Rain was and is showered down, which causeth many pleasant Springs and Streams to run, by which now many a sad Heart comes to be made glad, more than when Corn, Wine and Oyl increase. O! the the Unalterable, the Unchangeable blessed Truth! who can declare the extent and worth of it! The Tongues of Men and Angels are too short to declare it, and time would fail any fully to demonstrate the Goodness of our God, as it is tendered and freely ministred unto the Sons and Daughters of men; and they that receive it in the love of it, and continue in the enjoyment of it, it is more to them than all outward things whatsoever, that may be enjoyed or beheld in this Life, because of the great Refreshment of it, which is as the Oyl of Joy and Gladness, to the Souls of them that dwell in the delight of it.

So, dear and tender Babes, remember what the Lord hath done for you, in making you Partakers of his great and

and glorious Blessings, which the World could never give, neither can it take them from you; and this will be your Everlasting Joy and Happyness here, and when time shall be no more in this Life, and we know not how soon time in this Life will have an End; therefore what cause have we to prize our precious Time; for it is the present Time is our Time, we cannot to day assure our selves we shall have another Day.

These things being considered, let us set all things aside that would hinder, or is like to hinder the Work of God from being carried on, that every one may run the Race with patience, that is set before them, that they may lay down their Heads in Peace when the Body must be dissolved, and the Glory of this World will have an end; and whatsoever is near and dear unto thee of this World must be parted from, Father, Mother, Brethren, Husband, Wife and Children, Relations, Acquaintance, Lands and Livings; and all other things whatsoever; these things can stand us in no stead at all in the day of Account, which will shortly come upon all.

O Friends! All you that desire to have Peace and Joy with the Lord, when you come to lie upon your Death Beds, remember your latter End, and call to mind what you have to do before it be too late, and there be no more time for you; for some there hath been that have fallen into this great Distress, that would have given the whole World, if it had been possible, to have had Peace with God; when the hour of death hath come upon them before they have been aware, when death and sorrow hath met together, and there hath been none to help. These things have happened to some that have been convinced of the Truth, because they have not been mindful of the Lords Work when they have been called to it; and there are some

now

now, that this State and Condition doth attend; therefore am I at this time in Love drawn forth towards all such, and in pity to their Souls, that all may come home to their expected Habitation with the Lord, and that none may miss of their Crown of Everlasting Life.

Friends, in much Love and tender good Will do I write these things, it being laid upon me by the Lord of Heaven and Earth, whom he hath been pleased in some measure, to manifest his Mind and Will unto, and hath been pleased also to discover to me many the Wiles and Snares of the Enemy of mans Soul, and given me a sense of the inward States and Conditions of many, being revealed to me by the God of my Life, in whom is my daily Joy and Rejoycing for evermore. And I do much desire that all may come to, and abide in the sense of the Work of God in them, and that none may come short of that Rest which will endure forever.

Considering these things, I am minded to clear my Conscience of all whom this may concern, or to whose hands it may come, that I may be clear of the Blood of all, when I am to give up my Stewardship to my Lord and Master, that it may be with Joy, and not with Grief.

O *Friends*! how deeply ought our concerns to be for God in this matter of so great a weight, the good of our Souls, who hath been pleased in the tenders of his Love to seek us out where we were lost as well as others, and to bring us to be acquainted with that which this World never knew by all its Wisdom, and hath been pleased to entrust us with that which the Wisdom of this World never was accounted worthy to know, to that end, that we might be Partakers of an endless Life with Christ and the Saints in Light forever: And in order to bring and to prepare.

perpare us to be fitted for this Habitation; Christ the Son of God is come to fit Men and Women for it, that he may rule and bear sway in all, and in every Man and Woman, over all that is contrary to himself; This peaceable true Condition being known and lived in, teacheth all men, in what state and condition soever they be, therewithal to be content.

Now *Friends*, consider how it is with you; Doth the Lord rule and bear sway in you over all? for blessed are they whom the Lord ruleth and beareth sway in, for he is come to rule over all, in all them who are fitted for his Kingdom, that all that he hath made choice of may dwell with him, to the Praise of his Name for evermore.

So, let all try how it is with them, and see whether the Lord of Life doth rule and bear sway in you over all, if so, then you are no more your own, but the Lord's that bought you, and that with a great price, it being no less than the laying down of his Life, and the shedding of his precious Blood, in order to your Salvation.

And you that are purchased with this price, and know your selves by him redeemed, your chiefest Joy will be with the Lord, and your delight above all things will be with him, and to do his will here on Earth, as it is done in Heaven, and in this we shall be happy forever; this I have learned by good Experience.

But if there be any thing yet that beareth rule in you, which is not of the Lord, in such the Lord's Spirit is yet grieved. This do I see in some, to my daily Sorrow, notwithstanding they may profess the Truth, yet not being stedfast in the Truth, they come not to be made Free by it, and so are still under Bondage, and never know

Freedom from the Snares of the Enemy. And such are often tossed in their Minds because of Disobedience, they are captivated by the Enemy of their Souls, some being building up that which they once destroyed; such were complained against in dayes past: And notwithstanding these things, People may make a shew of Religion, in a great outside boast and flourish, and yet be as far from the Truth as the East is from the West, as to live in the true Life of it, and to know it as it is in Jesus.

Too much of these things have I seen in my day, to the great grief of my Soul and Spirit, and amongst some of them that have been long convinced of the Truth, which causes me to write these things.

For I have seen, where the Lord should rule, the man of Sin doth yet rule, yea, even in some that have in some measure seen the Wonders of the Lord in the deep, and in many things have tasted how good the Lord hath been unto their Souls, and yet are not come to follow the Lord fully, as honest *Caleb* and *Jehshua* did, although they have had long and many Visitations of Gods Love to their Souls; the Lord hath in some measure decked them with his Jewels, and they have taken his Jewels and decked themselves, and have endeavoured to mix that Wisdom which God hath opened to them, with the Nature and Wisdom (which is corrupt) of this World; and in this corrupt Wisdom of the World do consult how to make void the Cross of Christ; and here they are in that state with them which were turning back into *Egypt* again, and these be they that are forsaking their First Love.

O let all such among you, *Friends*, remember the Lord who loved you first! for he is beautiful and lovely to behold, better than Wine, sweeter than Honey and the
Honey

Honey Comb, more precious than **Gold** or refined **Gold**, or than all precious **Pearls**, or all the **Glory** of this **World** whatsoever; and truly nothing can be compared unto him, for indeed he will endure when all other things will come to an end; the raging **World** cannot overcome him, he will forever reign in **Mercy** and **Peace**, in them that do obey him, and in and over them that rebel against him, he will be known as a **Judge** and **Condemner** forever; after this manner is he known in the **Faithful** on the one hand, and in the **Unfaithful** on the other. This is he that my **Soul**, and the **Souls** of the **Righteous** delight in; O! come taste and see how good the **Lord** is, He is to be loved above all, because He is over all in **Wisdom**, **Power** and **Strength**, he is greatly to be desired; and the reason why **People** come not to know him, as he is in this glorious manner, is, because they do not live and walk in the **Truth**, as it is in **Jesus**, which life is out of the **Reasoning**, **Consulting** and **subtil Wisdom** of the **Flesh**, that many are glorying in, and yet profess other things, this will be their **Overthrow**, if they Repent not of it: This **Life** which is in **Jesus** is also out of the **Glorying**, **Fading**, **Visible** **Perishing** things of this **World**, such are yet a grief to the **Lord**, and to his **People**, and are a **Dishonour** to the **Truth**, that profess it, and do not live the life of it. And this is because **Christ** bears not sway within them, but they that come to live the life of **Christ**, by him their **Minds** come to be redeemed out of these things; and because of the **Invisible Joy**, which they have a sight of, this brings **People** to use the **World** as if they used it not, and to **Marry** as if they **Marryed** not. And so, neither **Husband**, **Wife** nor **Children**, **Lands** nor **Livings**, **Poverty** nor **Riches**

can lift up, nor cast down, Crosses nor Afflictions; Things that are seen, or that are not yet seen, but in time may come to be seen, however it may appear, none of these things shall ever be able to separate us from the love of God which we have in Christ Jesus; and they that are come to this, have made choice of that which shall never be taken from them, it will forever be their Joy here, and their Crown and Happyness in the Life to come, when this life shall have an end. And the sense of these things being lived in, this keepeth out all visible Things from rooting in their Minds, because they have alwayes that in their Minds which is of more value than all visible things in this World; this was and is that which caused many to wait upon the Lord all the dayes of their appointed time.

O Friends, consider, Is it so with you? Do you wait upon the Lord in constant diligence? Is your chiefest delight to be with him? then will your Joy be in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, and your Happyness above all this Worlds Happiness; and in this you will reign as Princes in God's Kingdom, and be fixed as Stars in the Firmament of his Power forever.

And this have I seen on the one hand excellent above all other things in the Upright in Heart; and on the other hand have I seen very great Sorrow attending and coming upon them that do profess the Truth of our God, and do not come through Faith and Obedience to live and walk in it, but stick by the way, and are keeping that alive that God is come to destroy; Wo unto such that keep any thing back which God is calling for, or that are mindful of *Egypt's* Glory again, after they have been called out of it; this hath been the Ruin and Overthrow
of

of some that have not been pressing in their Minds against that which hath appeared to hinder the Work of God in them.

I remember a Passage of the holy Men of Gods Experience concerning their travel towards *Sion*, how they pressed forwards towards a *City whose Builder and Maker was God*; They spoke after this manner & said, *We have no continuing City here, but we are seeking or going towards a City which hath Foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God*: And they said, they were pressing towards it, which signifieth there were many things to press against, and Opposition in the Way to *Sion*, and so there is now; and they that will not press now against Temptations, and against the many Besetments & Temptations of the Enemy, which sometimes comes in as a flood to try them whom the Lord hath called; they that do not strive against these, shall ne come to *Sions* Rest; but they that are engaged in their Minds against whatsoever doth appear inwardly or outwardly to hinder the Work of God in them, that he hath begun, and so continue to the End of their dayes, these come to obtain the Crown, and to lay down their Heads in Peace. So, blessed be the Name of the Lord, our safety hath been, and is, in being united to him, and in keeping our Minds staid upon him; in this our Peace remains, and this brings unto content of Mind, which is a continual Feast.

And the manner of our pressing, and of the holy men of Gods pressing forward towards *Sion*, the City of the living God, it hath been alwayes a keeping our Minds exercised in the Gift of God. This Gift of God, as our Minds are joyned to it, keeps our Minds Heaven-wards, and the bent of the Mind and Spirit then is, to serve God,

God, and in Gods Service there are many glorious things to be beheld and enjoy'd, and in measure come to have a sight of those excellent things which are laid up in store for the Righteous, which are far transcending all things here below; and in this state the Angel of Gods presence doth attend all those that are thus waiting and pressing against every Evil appearance, which doth or may arise in any measure against the Truth, or that would hinder thee in the way of the Lord; and so by keeping thy Mind to this Gift, the Name of the Lord comes to be known as a strong Tower, a place of Safety from the Storms of the Enemy, where the Son of Righteousness doth shine upon them. These be they that grow as the Willows by the Water courses, and the Joy of Heaven makes them sing together as the Morning Stars of the Lords Day, shouting together for Joy, because he is come whom they have desired to see, the Love of God being with them as a Comforter to their Souls; and being filled as with New Wine out of Gods Fountain, which is Invisible, this keepeth the Mind clean, and up to God, from being cumbered or defiled with Visible Things, being filled with that which is better than all other things, which is Bread indeed; and as this is fed upon, there is no desire after the Chaff or Husk.

And as People come to this, to feed of this Food, by this they grow in the Knowledge of the Lord, and come to see things Invisible, which is hid from the World that lies in Wickedness; And some in Ages past that came to this Condition counted all things but as Dung and Dross here below, in comparison of the excellency of the Glory of God, which they were made sharers of in Christ Jesus.

And

And this made them endure whatsoever was laid upon them for the Tryal of their Faith, *Sion's* Glory being alwayes in their Minds and before their Eyes, the Morning Light shining more and more unto the Perfect Day. He being with them that quenched the Violence of Fire, stopped the Mouthes of Lyons, and with them for whom he made Waters stand on Walls on each side, and rained Manna from Heaven, and Quails that covered the Ground; These things did he do in Dayes past for them, and stretched forth his hand unto them all the Day long, but many of them Rebelled against him, which was the cause of their Overthrow in the WilderNESS. This is he that binds Kings in Chains, and Nobles in Fetters of Iron, He that hath all Power in Heaven and in Earth in his Hand, and all the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge are hid in him; this is our Beloved! who can declare the largeness of his Goodness? Time would fail to do it, and the Tongues of Men and Angels would be too short to demonstrate what God is doing and will do for them that love and fear him, that he finds waiting upon him: O Friends, this is he that is for us, therefore, who can be against us? for all Nations before him are but as the Drop of a Bucket, or as the smallest Dust of the Balance; O! who is it but that would be faithful to him, considering how good he hath been to us; He hath laid down his Life for us, as a Ransom to redeem us out of the Bondage of Corruption forever: Upon his own Good Terms hath he promised Salvation, That whosoever will believe on him, and wait upon him, shall not Perish, but have Everlasting Life. O Friends, let us go chearfully on, that we may all come to know that

Crown.

Crown of Life, that none may faint by the Way, nor sit down short of that Rest; for the King of Saints is our Captain, and the Keeper of *Israel* is amongst us, as a True and Righteous Guide; Therefore let none look back into *Egypt* again; remember *Lot's Wife*; for they that looked back again, after their faces were turned *Sionward*, they met with many Opportunities to invite them to return again into the Country from whence they came; for when the Eye is turned back again to behold the Glory of this World, and begin to be inclining towards it, then the sight of those Glorious Things comes to be lost, which are only seen when the Eye is towards the Lord; so loosing sight of that which is Eternal, come again to have a Delight in that which is Temporal; and so returneth with the Dog to his Vomit, and licked up that again which was loathsome, and was once cast out, and such come to be compared to the Sow that was Washed, and is wallowing in the Mire again; which State and Condition is very bad indeed! it is hard to utter the Sorrow and Deporable Condition that they have plunged themselves into! for the Lord saith, *He hath no pleasure in them that set their Hand to the Plough, and look back.* For they that know, and do not live answerable to what they know, they are worthy of great Punishment, and do incur upon themselves the Lords great Displeasure; For he or she that know their Masters Will, and do it not, are worthy to be beaten with many Stripes.

For 'tis not he or she that sometimes look forward, and other times look backwards is accepted of God, but they that alwayes look forward in all cases, to see what will make most for the Honour of God's Truth,
and

and the Prosperity of it, if it be never so much the denial of Self, and to the Crossing of the Creatures Will, yet let it be, for upon no other Terms is Salvation promised, but upon Terms of Self denial, and a taking up of the Cross to the Will of Man, in small things as well as great; for they that are not faithful in a little, shall never enjoy much; and he that offendeth in one point is guilty of the Lords Displeasure; and if the Righteous scarce be saved, where then shall the Ungodly and Sinner appear? For he that will be Righteous, let him be Righteous still, as its written, and true to the Lord in all things whatsoever he requires, and he requires no more of any but that which he enables them to do, as they are faithful and true to him; and this is that which is acceptable to God, to be True and Righteous in all things, that Christ may present them blameless before his Father which is in Heaven, that a Crown of Everlasting Life may be their Portion; This is that which the Lord will bring all them to, that are Faithful to him, such are come to enjoy Peace, which is as the Streams of broad Rivers to their Souls, which are *Shiloes* Streams, which make glad the whole City of God: This is that which keeps People in a fresh remembrance evermore of that which is good and wholsome for their Souls, their Minds and Hearts being in that which is Unchangeable; Here no carnal Thing can change them, because they are filled with that which is Spiritual and Invisible, this is that which keeps them in perfect Peace; And as we live in this, we are Happy forever, but out of it there is no Happyness nor Assurance to be attained to for our Souls, notwithstanding our Profession, for 'tis one thing to be in the Profession,

and another thing to be in the Possession of that which is Professed; For Friends, 'tis not enough to know the Truth, except we live in it; for there were and are many that knew the Truth, that did not live in it, as they ought to do, whose Condemnation was and will be the greater; for it had been better for some of them they had never been born, or that a Mill-stone had been hanged about their Necks, and they cast into the Sea, then to offend the Lord, as some did after they knew the Truth.

Therefore consider these things, and see whether or no you are clear in the sight of God, supposing this were the last Hour of your Life, and you were now to be called hence to give your Account to the Lord, and never to be seen more in this World; O! search and see whilst the Light shineth, and before the Day be spent, and the Night come upon thee again, wherein none can work for God; For I have seen that many things which were once wrought out of some, have been ready to enter them again, who have not diligently kept to their Watch, who for a time have had a Life and a Delight in the Truth, in some measure. These things have come upon some, because of their Unfaithfulness, in letting their Affections go out from God into Visible and Perishing Things, whereby they have been cumbered, and their Minds set more upon the Things of this World, than upon the Things of God, and to some because the Riches of this world hath flowed in upon them. Although it be an Earthly Blessing of God to cause an Increase of outward Riches, it may be to try People, to see what good they will do with them, but letting their Minds into them more than is fitting, this becomes a
Snare

Snare to many. And others, because of Poverty and Decrease of outward Riches, are ready to Murmur, not Eying him alone that gives and takes away, which the Lord sees good sometimes to suffer to come upon People, to try them, as he did upon *Job*, and many others that wandered about in Sheep-skins and Goat-skins, being Tormented and Afflicted, whom this World was not worthy; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things, in as much as they were Possessors of that which will endure when all things here below will have an end; and thus they came to witness receiving manifold in this Life, as is mentioned in the Scriptures. So, they looking more at the Recompence of the Reward in Heaven from the Lord, which they were following and going towards, *A City, whose Builder and Maker is God*, Eying more that Everlasting Being with the Lord, than the present Sufferings in this Life, which they underwent for the Lords sake; in this they were preserved, having still an Eye to the Mark before them.

So, in all Conditions, they that seek first God's Kingdom, and the Righteousness thereof (which Righteousness, some that are convinced of the Truth are not come into) and dwell therein, come to witness all things given to them by the Lord, that are needful; and also come to know that Promise fulfilled, which is, *That all things shall work together for the good of them that Love and Fear God*. So, in all straits they that mind the Lord, that feedeth his Flock with Food convenient, and that feedeth the Ravens, and taketh Care for Sparrows, and cloatheth the Grass of the Field, they will not be neglected by him; yea, and in all their Exercises they see his Hand of Providence to be opened to them.

And Friends, this is my Belief, The Lord will take care for them that fear and wait upon him, that they shall want no good thing that is convenient for them; though Tryals and Exercises may come, as in all Ages they did, this is good many times for some, and in all Ages was; for some would never come clear to walk in the Truth, (though they have been convinced of it) until sharp Tryals have come upon them; therefore *David* said, *It was good for him that he was Afflicted, for before he was Afflicted he went astray; but now (said he) I have learned to keep thy Precepts;* therefore all things work together for the good of them that truly fear and love God; and I see it will never be well with some until some great Affliction come upon them; for some there are, that nothing else will do, as to the bringing of them to a real Consideration of their Latter End; and it will be well with many when all are driven to their own, then will People come to remember their Fathers House, when the Husk will satisfy no longer, and many Faces will be turned *Sion*-wards, and the Lord will be followed fully, as by *Caleb* and *Joshua*, then Righteousness will run down as a mighty Stream, and Justice and Equity will embrace each other, and the sweet Melody of the Lords Voice will be delighted in.

And though the outward man may Perish, yet the inward man shall be renewed Day by Day: If People would but trust the Lord, they should want no good Thing in this Life (not in that to come) that is necessary for them.

O Friends! I see a Time coming and hastning apace, wherein all shall be Tried; therefore 'tis good for all who know the Lord, diligently to wait upon him, lest the

the Night come upon you, in which none can follow the Lord; for they will be blessed that have got Oyl in their Lamps, and their Lamps burning, that with the Light thereof can see to walk; but Wo be to them then that have not Oyl in their Lamps, they will not have strength then to stand before the Lord in that great Day of Account, which hastens apace, wherein all must give an Account of the Improvement of their Talents; therefore be not careless in this thing, for some by reason of a Careless Negligent Spirit, after they have been convinced of the Truth, have trifled away their precious Time, and never come to know the preciousness of the Truth as it is in Jesus, and they that serve the Lord negligently their Reward will be Sorrow in the End.

Many Young People the Lord hath been pleased to visit in their Tender Years, for their Souls sake, because they should remember their Creator in the Dayes of their Youth, before it be too late, and the Evil day come upon them, and there be no more Time nor Mercy for them; but some there be who have not answered the Lord's Love, in the Day of his Tender Visitation to their Souls, but have let their Minds after other Lovers, and have spent and passed away their Time in this World, more than hath been convenient, in seeking after those things which will fade and come to an End, not minding first God's Kingdom, and the Righteousness thereof, but have first sought to please themselves, and have spent their Dayes in Lightness and Airyness of Mind, thinking they have been Young enough, and might have Time enough to Repent hereafter.

Young People, have a care of that Mind, for that is

a Perswasion of the Enemy, that would put that in your Minds, to pass Time away until there be no more Time; for when God's Spirit hath ceased striving, times of Refreshment and Mercy will be at an end, and no more Time of Repentance will be found, but Sorrow forever will come upon you. Although thou art Young, yet how dost thou know whether thou shalt see another Day? for God takes away the middle Aged and Young as well as Old; and thou knowest not how soon the Lord may take thee away; therefore have a care what thou dost; Can it be too soon to serve the Lord, who laid down his Life for us all, and suffered for the Sins of the whole World, that all they that will come to him by Repentance and Newness of Life, might be saved? Therefore consider, it cannot be too soon to get assurance for your Souls, for Death cometh at uncertain times upon Young as well as Old; therefore let your Minds be staid upon God, that you may get assurance, and be kept in perfect Peace, for there is no true Peace, but to them whose delight is in the Lord; but they that set their Minds upon Father, Mother, Husband, Wife, Children, Lands or Livings, Gold or Silver, or any other thing, more than upon the Lord, they are none of his; for Christ saith, *He that will not forsake all for him, is not worthy of him.* And Friends, have a care of a vain light Mind, in using vain Words and foolish Jestings, for this corrupteth Youth, and is a shame to old Age; and have a care of running into any thing which will bring a dishonour upon the Truth; for they that keep to the Lords leading, although they are counted Fools by the World, yet in the Lords Way they shall never Err nor go astray, but shall enjoy the Joy of Joys, and that Comfort

Comfort which will never have an end. And Young People, have a care of drawing one anothers Affections out, under a pretence of Marriage, before the Lord lead or make way for you, for the Enemy hath had a great advantage in that thing, in drawing some before their Leader, and beyond what the Lord alloweth of.

And so, *Friends*, let us return forever unto the Lord Everlasting Praises and Hallelujahs, for he is worthy for evermore.

This from your Friend and Brother in the Truth of our God, who am a Traveller both in Body and Spirit for the good of all, desiring that we may all come to the heavenly Rest, and forever dwell with God, when we are called hence, never to be seen of this World any more.

In that which keeps our Minds Heaven-wards, dear Friends, all dwell and remain forever. So in that Farewell.

Coney-Hurst in Suffex, }
the 20th of the 2d }
Month, 1679. }

John Songhurst.

THE END.